

July 29, 2003

Ms. Marlene Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Room CY-B402  
Washington, DC 20554

**RE:** *Application of SBC, Pursuant to Section 271 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 for Authorization to Provide In-Region, InterLATA Services in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Wisconsin, **WC Docket No. 03-167***

Dear Ms. Dortch:

As part of our recently released public policy agenda, the *Blueprint for Economic Prosperity*, the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce (MMAC) identified the need for an effective telecommunications network as one of the key strategies to growing our regional economy. Approval of SBC's petition for the ability to provide long distance service is a major tenet of that strategy, and we would like to express our support for SBC's entry into the long distance market in Wisconsin.

SBC has maintained a high level of commitment to not only the Milwaukee region, but the state of Wisconsin by continuing investment in its employees and its Wisconsin infrastructure. Also, allowing SBC to enter the long distance market will benefit our state's telecommunications industry and increase competition, making consumers the ultimate winners.

We urge you to support SBC's application to compete for long distance customers in Wisconsin because consumers should have as many choices as possible. Other states already are experiencing full competition, and residents and businesses are clearly benefiting from the competitive offers. Increased competition in Wisconsin will bring higher quality and more innovative products and services that save consumers money. The sooner SBC begins competing for long distance customers, the sooner Wisconsin businesses can enjoy lower phone bills, a single telecommunications bill and the freedom to make more choices.

On behalf of MMAC's 2,300 members and the 300,000 employees they represent, we urge the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to support SBC's long distance application for Wisconsin as soon as possible, and we applaud the role of the FCC in helping to open the state's local telephone market to competition.

Sincerely,



Tim Sheehy  
President